NOMINATION OF GLEN E. EDGERTON

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY
UNITED STATES SENATE

83D CONGRESS

1ST SESSION

ON

THE NOMINATION OF GLEN E. EDGERTON TO BE
A DIRECTOR OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT
BANK OF WASHINGTON

MARCH 31, 1953

Printed for the use of the Committee on Banking and Currency

UNIV. OF MICH.
MAY 2 1953
LAW LIBRARY

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
31589 WASHINGTON : 1953

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

HOMER E. CAPEHART, Indiana, *Chairman*

JOHN W. BRICKER, Ohio	BURNET R. MAYBANK, South Carolina
IRVING M. IVES, New York	J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, Arkansas
WALLACE F. BENNETT, Utah	A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, Virginia
PRESCOTT BUSH, Connecticut	JOHN SPARKMAN, Alabama
J. GLENN BEALL, Maryland	J. ALLEN FREAR, Jr., Delaware
FREDERICK G. PAYNE, Maine	PAUL H. DOUGLAS, Illinois
BARRY GOLDWATER, Arizona	HERBERT H. LEHMAN, New York

IRA DIXON, *Chief Clerk*
RAY S. DONALDSON, *Staff Director*

NOMINATION OF GLEN E. EDGERTON

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1953

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY,
Washington, D. C.

The committee convened pursuant to call at 2:10 p. m., room 301, Senate Office Building, Senator Homer E. Capehart, presiding.

Present: Senators Capehart, Bricker, Bennett, Bush, Payne, Maybank, and Frear.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order. Our next witness will be Mr. Glen E. Edgerton, who has been nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank.

We have, I believe, the biographical statement and historical background of Glen Edgerton which certainly indicates a lot of experience for a Director of the Export-Import Bank of Washington.

Without objection, the biographical sketch of Mr. Edgerton will appear in the record at this point.

(The document referred to follows:)

GLEN EDGAR EDGERTON

Army officer; b. Parkerville, Kan., April 17, 1887; s. John Edgar and Alice (Green); E.; B. S. Kan. State Coll., 1904, C. E., 1916; B. S., U. S. Mil. Acad., 1908; grad. Engr. Sch., U. S. Army, 1910; hon. grad. Command and Gen. Staff, 1924; m. Cordelia Irene Hessin, Dec. 8, 1914; children—Bruce Wilds Postlethwaite, Diana Trent. Comd. lt. Corps of Engrs, U. S. Army, 1908, and advanced through the grades to maj. gen. 1942; asst. engr. Panama Canal, 1908–09; chief engr. Alaska Rd. Commn., 1910–15 lt. col. 5th Engrs., col. comdg. 214 Engrs. and div. engr. 14th Div. during World War; dist. engr. U. S. Engr. Dept., Jacksonville, Fla., 1919; dir. of Sales War Dept., 1921–23; chief engr., Federal Power Commn., 1925–29; asst. prof. of engr'g U. S. Mil. Acad., 1930; dist. engr. U. S. Engr. Dept., Rock Island, Ill., 1930–33; asst. to chief of engrs., U. S. Army, 1933–36; engr. of maintenance, Panama Canal, 1936–40; gov. Panama Canal, 1940–41; dir. material ASF, 1944–45; asso. adminstr. War Assets Adminstrn., 1946; dir. U. N. R. R. A. in China, 1946–47; pres. beach erosion bd. Dept. Army, 1948–49; exec. dir. Com. on Renovation of Executive Mansion, Washington, 1940–51. Awarded decorations: Legion of Honor (France), Brilliant Star (China), Mexican Punitive Expdn. and World War Campaign medals, D. S. M. Legion of Merit (U. S.), Polonia Restituta Krzyz Walecznych (Poland), Vasco de Nunez Balboa (Panama), Condor of Andes (Bolivia), Abdon Calderon (Ecuador), Comdr. Order of British Empire (Great Britain). Fellow Royal Geographical Society of London; mem. Am. Society Civil Engrs., Am. Inst. Elec. Engrs., Soc. Am Mil. Engrs., Phi Kappa Phi Clubs; University (New York); Chevy Chase, Army and Navy, Alfalfa (Washington, D. C.); Union (Panama). Contbr. tech. articles to jours. Home: The Westchester, Wasaington 16. Office: The White House, Washington 25.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Edgerton, you are not a member of and have had no experience in the bank, but I would like to ask this question: The name of the Export-Import Bank indicates to me that it is to finance imports and exports. However, it seems from the reports we get it is dealing in everything and anything else except imports and exports.

Someone called my attention recently to the fact that it had only financed $600,000 in imports and exports, and it seems to me, about $5 million or $50 million, I forgot which it was, of other things.

Do you have any thoughts on that subject? Is it an institution to finance imports and exports or is it a catchall to finance all the pet schemes of different people throughout the world?

Mr. EDGERTON. Of course, my answer would be in the negative. I do not have very complete information about the operation of the bank in the past, or too much knowledge of the bank as a whole, but I am satisfied that the law contemplates that it shall facilitate the import and export business of the United States in the fields which private banking is not quite prepared to operate fully. I am satisfied that that should be the objective of the bank and, no doubt, will be.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there anyone here from the Export-Import Bank at the moment?

I am getting a little bit off the subject, but I do not care if I am. I do not know how the committee feels about it, but I think we ought to take a good look at the Export-Import Bank and its activity. I believe we should have the Directors up here and find out if there is room for complaint; if instead of its being an export-import bank, supplying money to finance imports and exports, it is not spending a lot of its time on things other than it was intended to do. I am not necessarily accusing it of doing anything wrong, but I am getting some complaints that it is not serving the import-export trade as it should. I think we are going to want to take a good look at it after you become a Director, and when we get finished with our control legislation here we are going to have some time and I think we will want to look into the Export-Import Bank very thoroughly to make certain that it is concerned only with imports and exports. That is a thing we are all vitally interested in—a balance of imports and exports. We want to help if we possibly can to not only secure more exports for our businessmen but more imports, and maintain our balance of trade.

I would just like to suggest to you, when you get in there you take a good look at it because we are going to go into it very thoroughly, this committee is, all the activities of the Export-Import Bank. What it has done in the past and what it proposes to do in the future.

Mr. EDGERTON. I think that is very appropriate.

Senator BRICKER. I notice your whole life has been spent in the service of the Armed Forces.

Mr. EDGERTON. Until 1949, yes, sir.

Senator BRICKER. What are you doing now?

Mr. EDGERTON. I am in consulting engineering, now.

Senator BRICKER. I assume this is the address in the White House which sent up this information? It says "Home: The Westchester, Washington 16, D. C. Office: The White House, Washington 25, D. C."

Mr. EDGERTON. I think that carries over from my recent assignment as Director of the Commission on Renovation of the White House, which was terminated in October.

Senator BRICKER. You have had no contacts with the Export-Import Bank at all?

Mr. EDGERTON. Very little. In the last 2 days, when my nomination came up, I have been invited to come over and make the acquaint-

ence of the officers there and I have done so. I have spent the last 2 days in the bank, finding out about it.

Senator BRICKER. If there were a duplication of facilities as between this and the other lending authorities, the World Bank and the like, there would be no reservation in your mind as to whether or not those functions might be consolidated at some time in the interests of efficiency and economy?

Mr. EDGERTON. Duplications of a wasteful nature should be eliminated under the present machinery and if economies could be effected by other actions, I would be one of the first to support it.

Senator MAYBANK. I have had a lot of business to do with the gentlemen in the course of renovating the White House, and it has always been satisfactory.

This Senate Resolution 25 that you introduced, Mr. Chairman, in which I joined with you, has to do with your statements about the Export-Import Bank. We had the experience of so much trouble with the Export-Import Bank that we had to put money in it in the Appropriations Committee.

I will say to you, General, this is an awfully big job. I do not know what should be done or what should not be done, but the Export-Import Bank in my judgment has got to get down to exports and imports in this country and they ought to have people in there—and I say this respectfully—who know something about exports and imports. I say that respectfully to you. It is one of the biggest banks we have and one of the biggest undertakings that can be done for the commodity markets, surplus steel, and other things. I hope, as Senator Capehart says, when we get around here to Senate Resolution 25, we are going to have to do something about it.

I fought around here for years, and other members of the committee were here with me at the time when we had the Spanish loan. We had collateral here to put up to help the Spanish people and we never got anywhere. We finally had to write an appropriations bill in here under mutual security 2 years ago. I just wanted to put that in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. We are going to take a good look at it.

Senator Sparkman?

Senator SPARKMAN. I have no questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, General, we are delighted that you have been here.

Senator BENNETT. I will make a motion, Mr. Chairman, that the nomination be favorably reported to the floor.

Senator SPARKMAN. I will second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN. The motion has been made by Senator Bennett and seconded by Senator Sparkman that we report the nomination to the floor and we will do so, unanimously.

Mr. EDGERTON. Thank you. It has been a great pleasure.

The CHAIRMAN. We will be seeing a lot of you, I hope.

Will you report the nomination, Senator Bush?

Senator BUSH. I will be delighted.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there anything else to come before the com-

I would like to have an executive session for just a minute if you do not mind.

(Whereupon, at 2:20 p. m., the committee proceeded in executive session.)